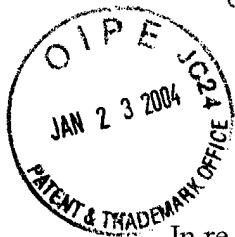


JAN 26 2004

AF 1652
Atty. Ref. No. 031001



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TECH CENTER 1652/200

JAN 29 2004

RECEIVED

In re Application of:

Paul D. Hanke

Serial No.: 09/974,973

Filed: October 12, 2001

PATENT APPLICATION

FEEDBACK-RESISTANT PYRUVATE
CARBOXYLASE GENE FROM
CORYNEBACTERIUM

Group Art Unit: 1652

Examiner: Slobodyansky, E.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

January 23, 2004

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT B AND REPLY TO FINAL OFFICIAL
ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Sir:

This is in response to the Final Official Action mailed November 25, 2003, in connection with the above-captioned Application, having a statutory period for response set to expire February 25, 2004. This Amendment and Reply is submitted within the two month period of the mailing date of the final action. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue an advisory action before the end of the three month statutory period ending February 25, 2004. The Examiner's objections and rejections have been carefully considered, and in view of the following remarks and amendments, reconsideration and early allowance of all pending claims is courteously requested. Please amend this Application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3 of this Amendment.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on page 4 of this Amendment.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 7 of this Amendment and include both attached replacement sheets and annotated sheets showing changes.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this Response.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 13 of this Amendment.